

conference with Examiner Legree), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,568 to Detlef et al. (hereinafter "Detlef"). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Specifically, Parisel has been cited as fully disclosing Applicant's invention, except merely for the step of providing a user-discernable indication responsive to the quality of a signal, for which Besharat was cited, and for indicating signal quality in terms of an acceptable percentage, for which Rahman was cited. Besharat, however, fails to either teach or suggest a user-discernable indication responsive to the quality of a signal, as claimed by Applicant in independent Claims 1, 6, and 13. In contrast to Applicant's invention, Besharat teaches an out-of-range (OOR) icon which is displayed in response to time-out of an OOR timer (col. 4, lines 30-31), not the quality of the signal. This is significant because, if the OOR timer (which is necessary to ensure that there is sufficient time to ensure the communication device 100 has in fact moved out-of-range of a transmitter, rather than into a signal null, col. 5, lines 14-16) does not time-out, then the OOR icon will *not* be displayed. Therefore, the OOR icon *may or may not* be displayed, *regardless* of the quality of the signal. Applicant, accordingly, respectfully submits that Besharat clearly does not teach or suggest a user-discernable indication correlated to the quality of a signal, as recited by Applicant in independent Claims 1, 6, and 13.

Furthermore, it is not at all clear how Besharat could be properly combined with Parisel. First, it is not clear how Besharat, which measures signal quality over a minimum period of four minutes of time (Besharat, col. 8, line 32) to determine if a communication device is out of range of a transmitter, would be compatible with Parisel, which distinguishes between noise and a signal over a period of milliseconds during a silence interlude of a telephone conversation. Second, if Parisel and Besharat were somehow made compatible, then, assuming Parisel were provided with the OOR timer of Besharat, it is not clear where the timer would be connected and what would activate the timer. Third, if the OOR timer could be activated by Parisel, then because Parisel only suspends power during periods of silence during a conversation, which periods would likely be less than the OOR timeout period, it is very probable that the OOR timer would never timeout, and the OOR icon would thus never be displayed. Therefore, it is not at all clear how Parisel could be combined with Besharat without preventing the OOR icon taught by

Besharat from being able to perform its intended function. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it would not be obvious to combine Parisel with Besharat and, needless to say, there is no suggestion or teaching in any of the references to make any such combination.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that none of the cited references, either singularly or in any combination, teach, suggest, or render obvious the unique combination now recited in independent Claims 1, 6, and 13. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 6, and 13 clearly and precisely distinguish over the cited combinations of references in a patentable sense, and are therefore allowable over those references and the remaining references of record. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1, 6, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parisel in view of Besharat and Rahman be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5, 7-12, 14, and 15 depend from and further limit independent Claims 1, 6, and 13, in a patentable sense and, for this reason and the reasons set forth above, are also deemed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of dependent Claims 2-5, 7-12, 14, and 15 be withdrawn, as well.

Applicant has reviewed the prior art made of record and not relied on, and has concluded that this art does not prejudice the patentability of the invention as defined by the present claims. For this reason and the reason that they have not been applied against Applicant's claims, no further discussion of them is deemed necessary.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this application in condition for allowance, or in better condition for appeal. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests, for the reasons set forth herein and for other reasons clearly apparent, full allowance of Claims 1-15 so that the application may be passed to issue.

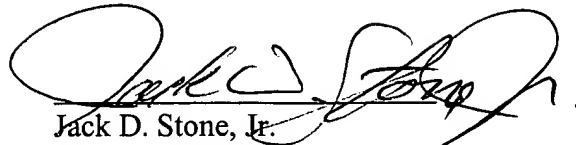
Should the Examiner have any questions or desire clarification of any sort, or deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

ATTY DKT No: 9015.017

PATENT APPLICATION
SERIAL NO. 09/454,124

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

Amended claim, marked to show changes:

1. (Twice Amended) The method of indicating the quality of a received signal at a mobile phone, the received signal sent to the mobile phone by a remote transmitter, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting reception of the received a signal from the remote transmitter at the mobile phone,

inspecting said received signal for determining its quality, at least in terms of a percentage of acceptable,

providing an output correlated to the results of said inspecting step, and

providing a user¹ discernible indication in response to said output provided [doing] during said operation of providing the output, the user [discernable] discernible indication indicative of the quality of the received signal in terms of the percentage of acceptable.